



Program Preferences

The Phase I Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan, largely through the Objectives and associated Resource Management Strategies, already addresses many of the Program Preferences.

Objective 1: Protect, conserve, optimize, and/or augment water supply (Program Preferences: Include regional projects or programs; Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the IRWM region; Drought preparedness; Use and reuse water more efficiently)

Objective 2: Protect, restore, and/or enhance water quality (Program Preferences: Include regional projects or programs; Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the IRWM region; Protect surface and groundwater quality)


Objective 3: Provide stewardship of our natural resources (Program Preferences: Effectively integrate water management with land use planning; Use and reuse water more efficiently; Expand environmental stewardship; Protect surface and groundwater quality; Improve tribal water and natural resources)

Objective 4: Maintain and enhance water, wastewater, and/or power generation infrastructure efficiency and reliability (Program Preferences: Include regional projects or programs; Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the IRWM region; Drought preparedness; Use and reuse water more efficiently; Climate change response actions; Practice integrated flood management; Protect surface and groundwater quality; Improve tribal water and natural resources)

Objective 5: Address climate variability and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Program Preferences: Drought preparedness; Use and reuse water more efficiently; Climate change response actions; Expand environmental stewardship)

Objective 6: Increase participation of small and disadvantaged communities in IRWM process (Program Preferences: Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the IRWM region; Improve tribal water and natural resources; Ensure equitable distribution of benefits)

The programmatic work as well as the individual planning studies proposed in the Round 2 Planning Grant will help to update the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan to meet the IRWM Program Preferences, as indicated below.

INYO-MONO IRWM PROGRAM Round 2 Planning Grant Program Preferences 	Inyo-Mono IRWM Program Office (Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, 6)	Oak Creek Stream Stabilization Technical Study	West Walker River Restoration Planning Study	Town of Mammoth Lakes Stormwater Management Plan	Inyo/Mono Watersheds Invasive Plant Inventory	Additional IRWM Plan Work
	Program Preference					
<i>Include regional projects or programs</i>	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
<i>Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within hydrologic region</i>	♦					
<i>Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions</i>	♦			♦		♦
<i>Contribute to attainment of one or more objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the IRWM region</i>	♦	♦	♦		♦	♦
<i>Effectively integrate water management with land use planning</i>	♦	♦	♦	♦		
<i>Include actions designed to integrate the Stormwater Resource Plan requirements</i>	♦	♦	♦	♦		
<i>Drought preparedness</i>	♦					
<i>Use and reuse water more efficiently</i>	♦					
<i>Climate change response actions</i>	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	
<i>Expand environmental stewardship</i>	♦	♦	♦		♦	♦
<i>Practice integrated flood management</i>	♦	♦	♦	♦		♦
<i>Protect surface and groundwater quality</i>	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦	♦
<i>Improve tribal water and natural resources</i>	♦	♦			♦	♦
<i>Ensure equitable distribution of benefits</i>	♦					

1. *Include regional projects or programs*

This Planning Grant proposal includes regional-scale, watershed-scale, and community-scale efforts. The Inyo/Mono Watersheds Invasive Plant Inventory is the most regional project in nature, covering seven watersheds within the Inyo-Mono planning region. This inventory will benefit multiple communities, including several disadvantaged communities. The Oak Creek Stream Stabilization Technical Study, West Walker River Restoration Planning Study, and Town of Mammoth Lakes Stormwater Management Plan all address watershed-level issues within four separate watersheds in the Inyo-Mono region, thereby significantly increasing the portion of the region directly benefitting from the IRWM Program. Finally, the ongoing operations of the IRWM Program will continue to involve all areas of the region.

2. *Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within hydrologic region.*

Chapters 1 (Inyo-Mono IRWM Program operations), 3 (Climate Change), 4 (Information/data management, GIS, and Inyo-Mono website), 5 (Sustainable funding plan), and 6 (Integration and Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan updating) are all explicitly designed

to facilitate integration of programs and projects under the Inyo-Mono RWMG umbrella. Additionally, information gained from the Chapter 2 planning studies will assist in furthering integration of regional efforts. For example, findings from the Inyo/Mono Watersheds Invasive Plant Inventory will contain relevant information that may be used by future project proponents.

3. Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions

This proposal does not directly address intra-regional or inter-regional water-related conflicts. Rather, the Inyo-Mono RWMG aims to address the plethora of critical water supply, water quality, and ecosystem stewardship needs within the region. The planning studies in Chapter 2 address intra-regional, inter-regional, and interstate cooperation and propose to strategize and promote different levels of integration. The Inyo-Mono RWMG also has established itself as the main forum for discussing water-related issues in the region. Continued support of the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program operations will extend that function.

4. Contribute to attainment of one or more objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

Because the Inyo-Mono IRWM region is not geographically linked to the Bay-Delta watershed, nor is it linked in terms of water supply infrastructure, this proposal does not address this Program Preference.

5. Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities.

The Inyo-Mono IRWM Program has made responding to the needs of DACs a priority since the Program's inception. The proposal as a whole will work to continue to address critical needs of and engagement with DACs. Three of the four planning studies under Chapter 2 directly involve one or more DACs and respond directly to water supply and/or water quality concerns. In tandem with the DAC grant, the Inyo-Mono RWMG, with future Planning Grant support, will seize the opportunity to continue to make real differences in DACs within the Inyo-Mono region.

6. Effectively integrate water management with land use planning

Three of the four planning studies in Chapter 2 speak directly to integrating water management and land use planning. The Oak Creek Stream Stabilization Technical Study, West Walker River Restoration Planning Study, and Town of Mammoth Lakes Stormwater Management Plan will all help to fill this identified planning gap for the Inyo-Mono IRWM region. These planning studies involve watershed management activities that combine water management with land management in a planning context. Additionally, Chapter 3 focuses on responding to climate change vulnerabilities, including examining the nexus between water supply/demand and energy use. This will require an analysis of current and potential land use management and how such land use activities interface with water resources. The outcome of such an analysis will

contribute to enhanced understanding and integration of regional water management and land use planning.

7. Include actions designed to integrate the Stormwater Resource Plan into an IRWM Plan

The Oak Creek Stream Stabilization Technical Study and the Town of Mammoth Lakes Stormwater Management Plan will address many of the requirements of Stormwater Resources Plans as outlined in CWC Section 10562. The information derived from these planning studies will be integrated into the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan.

8. Drought Preparedness

With in-house climate change expertise, the Inyo-Mono RWMG is proactively addressing real and projected water shortages through the vulnerability prioritization and data gathering portions of Chapter 3.

9. Use and reuse water more efficiently

The strong emphasis on integration in this proposal facilitates responsible environmental stewardship and thus the commitment to use and reuse water in the most efficient manner possible. Identified as Objective 1 in the current I-M IRWM Plan, the protection, conservation and optimization of our regional water supply is of utmost importance and will continue to take priority throughout the Plan revision process identified in Chapter 6.

10. Climate Change Response Actions

Chapter 3 (Climate Change) is devoted solely to climate change, including prioritizing vulnerabilities and data gathering, addressing greenhouse gas emissions and the water/energy nexus, and participating in State-level climate change activities, and provides many avenues in which to address climate-related needs of the region. In addition, all of the Chapter 2 planning studies will result in information that will help the Inyo-Mono region respond to climate change impacts.

11. Expand environmental stewardship

Three of the planning studies (Oak Creek, West Walker, and Invasive Plant Inventory) directly address environmental stewardship through planning for stream restoration, erosion control, and management of invasive species. In addition, Chapters 4 (GIS) and 6 (Integration) will provide the tools to further promote and expand environmental stewardship projects and planning efforts through the region.

12. Practice integrated flood management

This Planning Grant proposal incorporates explicitly, for the first time, integrated flood management and planning for the Inyo-Mono region. Three of the planning studies (Oak Creek, West Walker, and Town of Mammoth Lakes) directly address and respond to flood management-related needs in three separate watersheds within the region. The results from these planning studies will then be considered and incorporated into the

Inyo-Mono Plan, including developing projects for future rounds of Implementation funding.

13. Protect surface and groundwater quality

The Oak Creek, West Walker, and Town of Mammoth Lakes planning studies will result in plans that will ultimately lead to protecting surface and groundwater quality through reducing sediment delivery, avoiding drinking water contamination, mitigating erosion, restoring stream channels, and managing stormwater runoff. Chapter 7 (Additional Work) will also focus on protecting surface and groundwater quality. The results from these studies will feed into additional consideration of protecting and improving water quality in the Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan.

14. Improve tribal water and natural resources

The Oak Creek and Invasive Plant Inventory planning studies will directly benefit Native American Tribes in the Inyo-Mono planning region. The Oak Creek planning study will involve the Fort Independence Indian Reservation, which sits at the lower end of the Oak Creek watershed and has been severely impacted by recent flooding and debris flows. The Invasive Plant Inventory will benefit several Tribes in the Owens and East Walker Watersheds through surveying invasive plant species in these watersheds and providing updated information regarding these species to the Tribal entities. The results from these planning studies will provide better information on protecting and improving tribal water and natural resources in the Inyo-Mono region, and this information will be incorporated into the Inyo-Mono Plan. The overall proposal will continue to involve and engage Tribes in the Inyo-Mono planning process.

15. Ensure equitable distribution of benefits

Through the Program Office work (Chapters 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6), the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program will continue to ensure equitable distribution of benefits to stakeholders and areas throughout the Inyo-Mono region. The emphasis will continue to be bringing resources to the region and building regional capacity.